

GOPAL KANUNGO Birth Centenary Celebrations 2004

ଗୋପାଳ କାନୁନ୍‌ଗୋ

ଜନ୍ମ ଶତବାର୍ଷିକୀ ସମାରୋହ

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Gopal Kaṇungo Birth Centenary Committee 2004
Orissa Lalit Kala Akademi, Bhubaneswar - 751014



Illustration for *Omar Rubaiyat*

ଏଇ ତରୁତଳେ ଘନ ପଲ୍ଲବ ବିତାନେ,
ଜୀବନ ବନ୍ଧୁ ବସି ମୋର ତୁଲେ ଗୋପନେ,
ପାଶେ ରଖି ଗୀତି ଚୟନିକା ଲଘୁ ଆହାର,
ଦାକ୍ଷାମଦିରେ ଭରି ଦେବ ସଖି! ଆଧାର।
ପାଶେ ବସି ଯେବେ
ଗାଇବ ସ୍ନିଗ୍ଧ-ରାଗିଣୀ
ଉଚ୍ଛଳ କରି ନିର୍ଜନ ମରୁ ବନାନୀ,
ତେବେ ଗୋ ସଜନି ! ମୁହିଁ,
ନିମେଷକ ଲାଗି ସ୍ୱର୍ଗ ମଣିବି
ରୁକ୍ଷ ଏ ମରୁଭୂଇଁ।

A Book of Verse underneath the Bough;
A Jug of Wine, a Loaf of Bread and Thou;
Beside me singing in the Wilderness;
Oh, Wilderness were Paradise enow!

- Edward Fitzgerald

I am glad to know that Orissa Lalit Kala Akademi is celebrating the Birth Centenary of a celebrated artist Gopal Kanungo. Shri Kanungo had captured the imagination of the people of Orissa in the 30s, 40s and 50s of the last century through his paintings, writings and art teachings. I am given to understand that this is the first Birth Centenary Celebration ever organized in Orissa for an artist who had contributed so much for enrichment of Orissan Art.

I wish the celebration success.

Naveen Patnaik
Chief Minister
Orissa, Bhubaneswar

I am very much happy to know that Orissa Lalit Kala Akademi is celebrating the Brith Centenary of a reputed Oriya artist, poet and translator Late Gopal Kanungo during the year 2004 and a booklet is being printed for commemoration of the occasion.

No doubt Gopal Kanungo's contribution to the field of Orissan Art is immense and his fame as a book jacket designer surpasses all other artists known in Orissa. He will be remembered as the artist of *Rubaiyat* of Omar Khayyam and *Meghadutam* for years to come.

I wish the celebration and printing of booklet all success.

Dr. Damodar Rout
Minister
Panchayati Raj, I. & P.R., Culture
Orissa, Bhubaneswar



Self Portrait *Pencil drawing*

One of the major art personalities of 20th Century Orissa, Gopal Kanungo has left an indelible mark on the world of art. He is respectfully remembered as an art teacher, essayist, author, poet, translator and art critic. He had charmed the Oriya literary world by his captivating book jacket designs and oriental illustrations. In his paintings, although he endeared pronounced facets of modernism like cubism, impressionism and expressionism, he evolved a visual neologism using academic watercolour, early Bengal wash and Orissan traditional gouache. He believed in romanticism and adhered strongly to 'picturesque'. One is amused at his stirring of gothic revival. His transcreation of Kalidas's *Meghadutam* and *Omar Rubaiyat* are gracefully passionate and lyrical like the originals. He, along with Dr. Mayadhar Mansingh, was largely responsible in formulating proposals for the creation of the art school at Khallikote where he had a short stint as a lecturer. Gopal Kanungo represented Orissa in the General Council of Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi (1957-61) and he was the Vice President of the Orissa Lalit Kala Akademi at the time of his death in 1971. He was born in Nentigarh in Puri district in 1904. In the Orissa Lalit Kala Akademi, we join with Oriya artists, writers and his admirers paying our homage to this illustrious son of Orissa in his Birth Centenary Year.

Dinanath Pathy



Ashok and Upagupta *Wash Painting*



Flood *Water Colour*

Brief Life Sketch

1904	-	Born, Nentigarh, Puri district
1923	-	Matriculated from Puri Zilla School
1927	-	Graduated from Ravenshaw College, Cuttack
1932	-	Married to Bidyutlata
1934	-	Graduated in fine arts with teachers training from School of Art, Calcutta in first division
1934	-	Entered Government service as an art teacher in Government High School, Balasore
1938	-	Awarded at Lahore for painting - *Dola Festival*
1940	-	Awarded at Sambalpur for painting - *Palli Patha*
1947	-	Awarded by all Orissa Fine Arts Exhibition at Cuttack.
1947	-	Represented Orissa in the All India Artist's Conference at Kolkatta
1950	-	Prepared facsimile copy of the procession mural of king Disabhanja in post-Gupta style at Ravanachhaya in Keonjhar district along with Ramanendra Chakraberti of Calcutta School of Art
1951-52	-	Further training in the art of engraving at Kolkata
1952	-	His painting *Boita Bandana* was exhibited at Cuttack, in Nikhila Sahitya Sammelan



Landscape *Oil on Canvas*

1957 - Short stint as Lecturer in paintings at Art and Crafts School, Khallikote

1957-61 - Represented Orissa in the General Council of Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi

1959 - Felicitated by Prajatantra Prachar Samiti in Visuv Milan (Annual congregation of writers) at Cuttack

1960 - Joined the Oriya Encyclopedia project as artist at the Utkal University

1961 - Awarded in the first annual Art Exhibition of Orissa Lalit Kala Akademi

1965 - Felicitated by Ganjam District Drawing Masters' Association at Berhampur

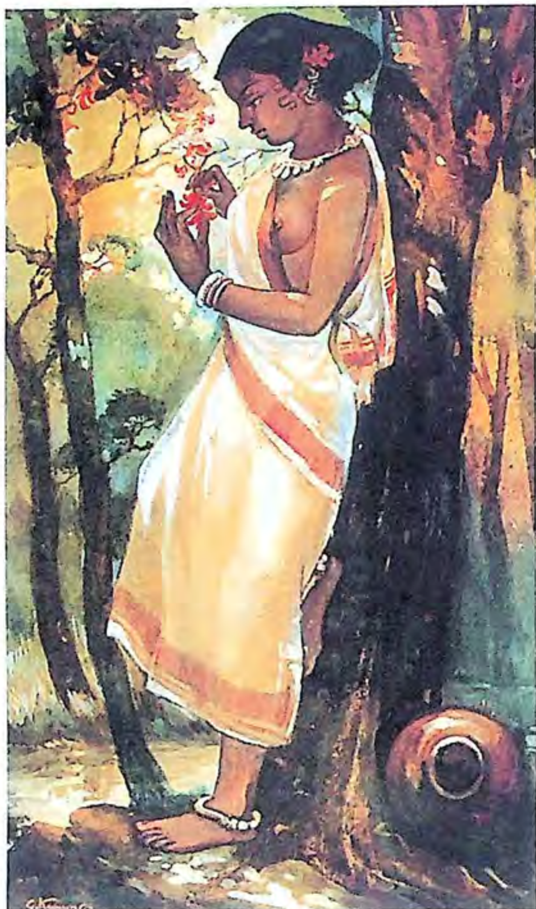
1968 - Felicitated by Orissa Sahitya Akademi

1970 - Felicitated by Orissa Lalit Kala Akademi

1971 - Died at Bhubaneswar while serving the State of Orissa as Vice President of Orissa Lalit Kala Akademi



Boita Bandana *Mixed Media*



The Spring *Water Colour*

Gopal Kanungo's publications on art, ***Kalara Vichara*** (1962) and ***Utkalara Chitrakala*** (1964) are two basic writings on art. While the ***Kalara Vichara*** is an analytical discourse on fundamentals of art, like line, form, composition and colour, the later volume offers a synoptic history of evolution of Orissan art from prehistoric to modern times. His books on art heralded an era of art-historical writing in Orissa with focus on Oriya readership.



My Village *Oil on board*

Gopal Kanungo's distinction both as an artist and as a writer, as an artist his paintings not only fascinated generation of viewers but also gave an excellent insight into the tradition of Oriya life and living. As a writer I particularly like to mention his two verse translations, one of *Omar Khayyam* of Fitzgerald and the other of *Meghadutam*. His translations never appeared as translations but as original pieces of great sensitivity, very favourably comparable to the popular translations of both the books by Narendra Dev of Bengal. It is a pleasure and privilege to remember Sri Kanungo.

J.M. Mohanty

Gopal Kanungo's works of translation are verbal extension of his pictures. Throughout his life he is a seeker of beauty - the meaning of his life. So he tries to capture those objects and moods in his works, which reveal to him his delicate nuances of life, making mystery appear real. This is why Kalidas's *Meghadutam* and Omar Khayyam's *Rubaiyat* are so fascinating to him. In them he finds the gateway of the tender complexion of the enigma of human existence.

Sourindra Barik

A student in his classroom way back in 1949, I always wondered at his long fingers moving with a pencil on my drawing book. He inspired me with his personality, more than his art, to look beyond forms and figures. My contact with him was short lived almost like an Indian spring, but these moments were eternal.

He was a great lover in deep anguish who looked at beauty and grace as universal ways. Gopal Kanungo always tried to reach beyond colours, form and words to create a cosmicity of harmony.

I bow down to this genius with all humility.

Prafulla Mohanty

Gopal Kanungo with poet's imagination and artist's photographic vision was an able writer and a capable artist to express himself through both words and colours. His paintings express the perennial beauty of body and mind in romantic moods for which he shall ever remain immortal.

Dukhishyam Pattanayak

Gopal Kanungo's fascinating bookjacket designs and illustrations are a class by themselves. He, in fact was the unparalleled master of a bookjacket renaissance in Orissa. He will be ever remembered as the visual dimension of Oriya literary activities of the last century.

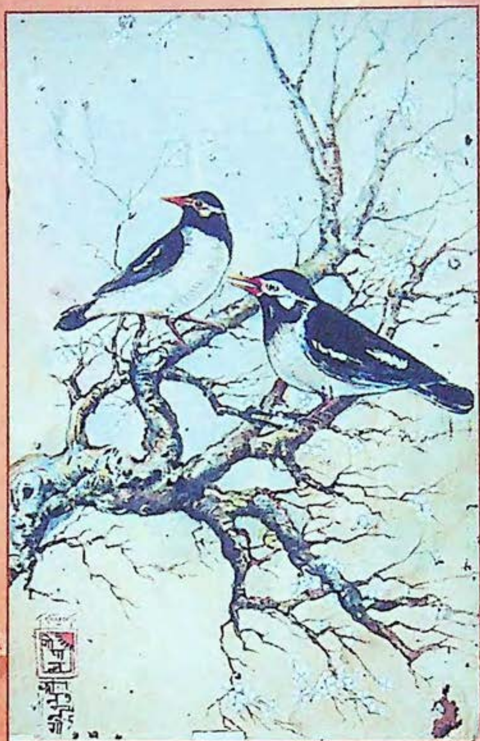
Siba Panigrahi

One feels the fragrance of the native soil in Gopal Kanungo's paintings. This is beyond doubt that the academic style of Calcutta and of Ajanta merge and mirror in his pictorial language. The beauty and charm of faces in Gopal Kanungo's paintings surpasses all other facets and properties.

Chandramani Biswal



Bathing Ghat *Oil on Canvas*



Birds *Water Colour in Silk*

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